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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Prime Minister Giulio
Andreotti of Italy (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Giulio Andreotti, Prime Minister
Notetaker: Robert Hutchings, NSC Staff
Interpreter: Sim Smiley

DATE, TIME: October 26, 1990, 4:45 - 4:59 p.m.
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Hello, Giulio. How are you? (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Fine, thank you, Mr. President. (U)

The President: I am out doing politics in California. (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: It is down to the last ten days. I
wish you luck. (U)

The President: Thank you. I would like to raise two matters
with you. The first relates to my letter to you on the Uruguay
Round. (Ø)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Yes, I received it yesterday. (Ø)

The President: I know I sound like a broken record, but I want
to reiterate my strong hope that real progress can be made on
reforming agricultural trade, because without such reform, in my
view, the prospects for the entire Uruguay Round are in jeopardy.
And, of course, agriculture is the main stumbling block. (Ø)

Prime Minister Andreotti: I can give you some information.
There was a meeting in Luxembourg among agricultural ministers of
the 12. As current President of the EC, we made a new proposal,
which we think reasonable. However, agreement has not been
reached yet. Ministers will meet again next Monday. Tomorrow
morning I will meet with our agriculture minister, since tomorrow
evening there is a meeting with President Mitterrand and the 12

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heads of state. I will recommend that they give their ministers instructions to agree. (Ø)

The President: That sounds encouraging. I appreciate your leadership on that. (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Yes, and I will commit myself so that this agreement will be reached. (Ø)

The President: Fine. Let me raise another matter, relating to the situation in the Gulf. I think that sanctions are working and that we are succeeding despite Saddam's persistent efforts to change the focus and weaken the coalition against him. The coalition is staying pretty strong, and I think this has his attention. One thing worries me: that is linking Palestine and the Gulf. That's what Saddam Hussein is trying to do. This brings me to the possibility that at the EC Summit there might be a resolution calling for an international conference right now. I have long felt that such a conference could be constructive if the timing was right and it was structured properly. But I am very worried that if we push now, the timing is all wrong. It would give Saddam Hussein just what he is looking for. It would weaken our coalition in the Gulf. We cannot be seen to be rewarding him by linking his aggression against Kuwait with the Israeli-Arab problem. I also don't think there is any reason to reward the PLO at a time when it is supporting Saddam and working against our common interests in the Gulf. I think we may well want to return to the conference idea once the Gulf situation is behind us, but I worry that a call now would weaken our coalition. I ask you to use your influence to keep the EC from issuing such a resolution. (Ø)

Prime Minister Andreotti: I agree. Tomorrow the EC will make two proposals. We have to follow and support the thesis of what you declared at the UN: that is, we cannot create a simultaneous linkage between Kuwait and the Palestinian Question. Right now we must solve the Kuwait problem but remain committed to solving other problems afterwards. I think this is very clear. In my text, I will use the same words you used, Mr. President. The other point I will make is that the 12 must not treat the hostage question as countries like France have done. We must launch an appeal to Saddam Hussein that all hostages should be freed, with no discrimination because of nationality. We will also reconfirm our full commitment to the UN resolutions. We must tell the Palestinians that their cause will not be defended by Saddam Hussein but by everyone. (Ø)

The President: I couldn't agree more. Today you made a fine statement. Thank you very, very much. Once again, Giulio, you

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and I seem to be together on these important questions. I am very grateful. (U)

Prime Minister Andreotti: Very good. I wish you all the best. (U)

The President: Okay. Good luck on your meeting. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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